

**REMARKS**

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-13, and 15-17 are all the claims pending in the present application, claims 2, 6, 10, and 14 having been canceled as indicated herein. Claims 1-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Claims 1-17 are also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ngo et al. (WO 00/04427) in view of Malkin et al (EP 1 021 021), and further in view of Arnold et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,167,449).

**§112, first paragraph Rejections - Claims 1-17**

Applicant submits that claims 1, 3-5, 7-9, 11-13, and 15-17 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

**§103(a) Rejections (Ngo/Malkin/Arnold) - Claims 1-17**

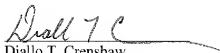
Applicant maintains the previously submitted arguments and further submits that neither of the applied references, either alone or in combination, discloses or suggests at least, “wherein the additional identifying information is used for one of the plurality of devices of a same kind that intends to receive a same type of service,” as recited in amended claim 1. The Examiner alleges that Malkin satisfies the above-quoted features (previously recited in claim 2, but now incorporated into claim 1), however in Malkin, the PING packet is intended to ensure whether the each client is connected to the network, rather than whether at least one of the plurality of service recipient devices can receive the service. Additionally, the PING packet does not include the additional identifying information used for devices of a same kind that intends to receive a same type of service.

At least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that claim 1 is patentable over the applied references. Applicant submits that independent claims 5, 9, 13, and 17 are patentable at least based on reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to claim 1. Applicant submits that dependent claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 11, 12, 15, and 16 are patentable at least based on their respective dependencies.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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